

REMARKS

Claims 19-38 remain in the application. Objection was raised to the drawing. The Examiner requested amendment to the abstract and objection was raised to the specification based on informalities. Accordingly, the drawings, abstract and specification are amended. In this regard, replacement sheets for Figures 2 and 4 are transmitted herewith.

All of the claims were rejected under Section 102 based on U.S. 6,909,990 (Okazaki). Independent claim 19 has been amended to more fully distinguish over the prior art. Independent claim 32 is presented for reconsideration without amendment. Reconsideration of these claims and each of the claims which depends therefrom is requested.

MPEP §2131 provides that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently, in a single prior art reference. The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as contained in the claim. In the case of each independent claim the Okazaki reference does not provide the requisite disclosure.

Specifically, with reference to claim 19, the prior art does not disclose

“gathering and storing in a first database relevant causation data of performance limits **for a plurality of related installations** ...[Emphasis Added]”

Similarly, the device of claim 32 includes

“a first database that contains data about causes of malfunctions in a plurality of installations and improvement measure data ...”

In this regard the Okazaki reference is deficient. Compare, for example, Figure 7 of Okazaki to the example embodiment shown in Figures 2 and 4 of the present application. Consequently, the claimed invention includes advantageous embodiments not suggested by the prior art. For example, the first database can be permanently installed at a central point, e.g., on the premises of a technical services provider, while the second database can be located at the site

of the installation under investigation. Thus the first database can be updated at a central point and can represent a comprehensive pool of knowledge about problems which have already occurred in other installations such that the stored information relating to other installations may be applied to determine the cause of a problem identified in the installation under study.

For all of these reasons it is respectfully submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed invention and allowance is requested.

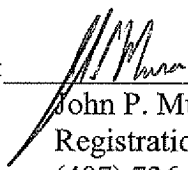
Conclusion

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


John P. Musone
Registration No. 44,961
(407) 736-6449

Siemens Corporation
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, New Jersey 08830

Enclosures: Two Replacement Sheets of Drawing